

REMARKS

In the present amendment, claims 19, 20, 22, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 46, 49, 52, 57, 58, 62, 69, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 89, and 94 have been amended. New claims 101 and 102 have been added. Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 18, 21, 28 – 30, 32, 33, and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 19, 20, 22 – 27, 31, 34, 35, and 37 – 102 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1 – 10 and 12 – 36 were rejected as being allegedly indefinite, as “said doorbell button” in claim 1 lacks antecedent basis. Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 18, 21, 28 – 30, 32, 33, and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 19, 20, 22 – 27, 31, 34, and 35 are believed to fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, whereby reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 57 – 100 have been rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Wagner et al. Claims 57, 58, 62, 69, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 89, and 94 have been amended.

Claim 57 is directed to “indicating an occupancy condition of a room”. The Examiner states that Wagner “discloses a system for indicating the status of a room”; in support of this the Examiner cites “figs. –3, col. 2, lines 14-21, col. 6, lines 4-15 and lines 29-32”. Referring to figures 1 – 3 of Wagner show an interior view of a door with a switch adjacent thereto (figure 1); an exterior view of a door with an indicator adjacent thereto (figure 2); and an enlarged view of the switch having three settings, OFF, DO NOT DISTURB, and MAID SERVICE (figure 3). None of which have any relevance to an occupancy condition of a room, as this switch can be set to any of these position

regardless of whether or not someone in the room. Referring to column 2, lines 14 – 21 of Wagner states in part “a system for indicating the status of a hotel room” and “for indicating the message selected by the hotel guest”, such does not discuss occupancy determination. Referring to column 6, lines 4 – 15 and 29 – 32 of Wagner states that various signal lights could be used (lines 4 – 15) and the preamble of claim 1 of Wagner recites a system for indicating a status of a room (lines 29 – 32). Wagner does disclose that addition messages, such as “ready for occupancy”, or “emergency help needed”, can be added to the system. However, as stated by the Examiner later in the Office Action, “ready for occupancy” simply means that the room has been clean. This is no indication of whether the room is occupied. There is simply no discussion of an occupancy determination in Wagner.

The Examiner then states that the Wagner system includes “a[n] interface assembly / switch assembly (10,12) configured to convey a message outside of the room/ the switch assembly (12) operable from inside the room”. In support of this the Examiner cites “figs. 1-3, col. 1, lines 47-57, col. 2, lines 23-31 and col. 3, lines 31-67”. However, Wagner does not teach or suggest “an interface assembly configured to convey the occupancy condition of the room to outside of the room”, emphasis added, as recited in claim 57. The switch assembly 10 of Wagner does not convey an occupancy condition, not even when the security feature discussed below is utilized.

Claim 57 does not recite “a passive infra-red device is used for detecting state of an entry door of the room” as recited by the Examiner. Rather, claim 57 recites “a

passive infra-red device for detecting motion in the room, said passive infra-red device in operable communication with the interface assembly”. Claim 57 further recites “an entry door switch for detecting state of an entry door of the room, said entry door switch in operable communication with said interface assembly”. The recited infra-red device of claim 57 has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with detecting the state of an entry door as stated by the Examiner.

Wagner does disclose a security feature that when activated will “[w]hen the door switch or the motion sensor is activated, the microprocessor will set the outside “do not disturb” light to blink, or will display a different discrete message either via a separate light or via LCD panel”, emphasis added, column 5, lines 37 – 40 of Wagner. However, claim 57 recites “a display for displaying outside of the room said occupancy condition when both said entry door switch detects a closed state of the entry door and said passive infra-red device detects motion within a delay”, emphasis added. Firstly, the door switch of Wagner is activated when the door is opened to detect an intruder, see column 5, lines 20 – 64 generally, and not to detect a closed state as recited by claim 57. Detecting a closed state will not aid in the detection of an intruder as contemplated by Wagner. Secondly, Wagner teaches that when either (not both) the door switch or the motion sensor are activated the microprocessor will set the light to blink, while claim 57 requires both the switch detecting a closed state and the passive infra-red device detects motion. Thirdly, the motion sensor of Wagner is time-delayed “to permit the occupant to leave the room”, column 5, lines 37 – 38, and to permit “the occupant to de-activate the system upon returning to the room”, column 5, lines 48 – 49. This is different from “detects

motion within a delay”, in fact it is the opposite. Wagner does not utilize motion detected during the delays, as this allows the occupant to leave and re-enter the room.

Accordingly, Wagner fails to teach or suggest:

“indicating an occupancy condition of a room”

“an interface assembly configured to convey the occupancy condition of the room to outside of the room”, emphasis added

“a display for displaying outside of the room said occupancy condition when both said entry door switch detects a closed state of the entry door and said passive infra-red device detects motion within a delay”, emphasis added

For at least these reasons, claim 57 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claims 58 - 71 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 72 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 72 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 72 recites “said interface assembly includes a jumper for selecting said delay from a plurality of preset delays”. The Examiner states that in Wagner, the delay (although a different delay as discussed hereinbefore) is set by the microprocessor. Wager is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of an interface assembly including “a jumper for selecting said

delay from a plurality of preset delays”. For at least these reasons, claim 72 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claim 73 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 73 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 73 recites “said switch includes a magnetic switch, said magnetic switch actuated with a magnet”. Claim 73 depends from new claim 102, which states that “said indicating assembly further includes a switch for enabling said display” Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch, magnetic or otherwise. Switch 12 of switching assembly 10 of Wagner, cited by the Examiner, is not located at the indicating assembly 30 (outside of the room) but at the switching assembly 10 (inside of the room). Secondly, switch 12 is not magnetic, as required by claim 73. In claim 57 the interface assembly is configured to convey the occupancy condition outside of the room (for which the Examiner has cited switching assembly 12 of Wagner) and the indicating assembly for displaying outside of the room the occupancy condition (for which the Examiner has cited indicating assembly 30 of Wagner). Indicating assembly 30 of Wagner does not include a switch for enabling the display and switching assembly 10 does not include a display for displaying outside of the room the occupancy condition. For at least these reasons, claim 73 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claims 74 - 75 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 76 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 76 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 76 recites “said communication includes an infra-red communication device in said interface assembly and said centrally controlled system for communication of signals therebetween”. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of using an infra-red device for communication. The motion sensor mentioned in Wagner has nothing whatsoever to do with communication between an interface assembly and a central control system, as suggested by the Examiner. Further, Wagner does not disclose or suggest an infra-red device included with an interface assembly and an infra-red device included with a centrally controlled system. For at least these reasons, claim 76 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claim 77 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 77 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 77 recites “said occupancy condition is also conveyed to a location remote from said interface assembly and remote from said indicating assembly”. As stated above, Wagner is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of conveying an occupancy condition. For at least these reasons, claim 77 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claim 78 recites “said indicating assembly including a first switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display”. The Examiner states that Wagner “does not mention the indicating assembly including a discrete switch actuated from outside of the room”. The Examiner then references switch (10, 12) of Wagner, which is the same

switch the Examiner refers to with respect to the switch assembly inside of the room. In claim 78 the switch assembly is configured to convey a message outside of the room, with the switch assembly being operable from inside the room (for which the Examiner has cited switching assembly 12 of Wagner) and the indicating assembly including a first switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display for displaying outside of the room (for which the Examiner has cited indicating assembly 30 of Wagner). Indicating assembly 30 of Wagner does not include a switch that is operable from outside of the room for enabling the display. Switch 10, 12 of Wagner is not the indicating assembly. Wagner provides no motivation to add a switch to the indicating assembly outside of the room in addition to the switch assembly inside of the room. The recited switch is not a “switch for selecting a message and indicating an occupancy condition of a room to a visitor” as stated by the Examiner. As recited in the claim, the message is selected by the switch assembly, which is not the same as the switch of the indicating assembly. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display.

For at least these reasons, claim 78 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claim 79 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 79 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 79 recites “said indicating assembly includes at least one of (1) said display of said indicating assembly comprising a discrete display and (2) said first switch comprising a discrete switch”. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly

including a switch that is discrete (or otherwise). The Examiner in discussion of claim 79 has not addressed such. For at least these reasons, claim 79 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claims 80 - 92 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 93 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 93 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 93 recites "said switch assembly includes a jumper for selecting a preset period of delay from a plurality of preset delays". The Examiner in discussion of claim 79 has not addressed such. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of a switch assembly including "a jumper for selecting a preset period of delay from a plurality of preset delays". For at least these reasons, claim 72 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claim 94 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 94 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 94 recites "said discrete switch includes a magnetic switch, said magnetic switch actuated with a magnet". Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch, magnetic or otherwise. Switch 12 of switching assembly 10 of Wagner, cited by the Examiner, is not located at the indicating assembly 30 (outside of the room) but at the switching assembly 10 (inside of the room). Secondly, switch 12 is

not magnetic, as required by claim 94. For at least these reasons, claim 94 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claims 95 - 97 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 98 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 98 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 98 recites "said communication includes an infra-red communication device in said switch assembly and said centrally controlled system for communication of signals therebetween". Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of using an infra-red device for communication. The motion sensor mentioned in Wagner has nothing whatsoever to do with communication between a switch assembly and a central control system, as suggested by the Examiner. Further, Wagner does not disclose or suggest an infra-red device included with switch assembly and an infra-red device included with a centrally controlled system. For at least these reasons, claim 98 patentably defines over Wagner.

Claims 99 and 100 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claims 57 – 100 patentably define over Wagner. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 18 and 28 - 36 have been rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Wagner et al. in view of Winston. Claims 19, 20, 22, 31, 34, and 35 have been amended. Claims 1 –10, 12 – 18, 21, 28 – 30, 32, 33, and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 31, 34, and 35 have been amended to depend from what should be an allowable independent claim, as discussed hereinbefore. In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claims 31, 34, and 35 patentably define over Wagner in view of Winston. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 37 – 56 were rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Wagner in view of Gatti. Claims 37, 38, 42, 46, 49, and 52 have been amended

Claim 37 recites “a minibar door switch configured to detect an open minibar door indicative of said minibar access condition, said minibar door switch in operable communication with said interface assembly”. The Examiner acknowledges that Wagner is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of such. The Examiner introduces Gatti as teaching “using a device (1,100) for monitoring of the door (45) of minibar / refrigerator (40,400)”. However, “sensor device 1 takes the form of a tray containing for example ten capacitive sensor modules 3”, see column 4, lines 16 – 18 of Gatti. Further, the “electronic trays 1, 100 such as those just described are particularly suitable for insertion in a minibar 40 in the place of the usual shelves”, see column 5, lines 27 – 29 of Gatti. Gatti does state that “[i]nvoicing occurs in two situations : after the door is closed”, see column 6, lines 39 – 40. Gatti does not state how it is determine that the door is closed.

Accordingly, Gatti does not teach a minibar door switch to detect an open minibar door, as recited by claim 37.

Further, claim 37 recites “said indicating assembly including a first switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display ...”. The Examiner references interface assembly /switch assembly (10, 12) of Wagner, which is the switch assembly inside of the room. The Examiner also references indicating assembly (30) of Wagner, which the Examiner states is “viewable from inside and outside of the room”. However, referring to Wagner “the indicating means accessible to the recipient outside of the hotel room”, emphasis added, see column 2, lines 21 – 22 cited by the Examiner. Also, referring to figure 2 of Wagner, the indicating assembly 30 is located outside of the room. The interface assembly 30 of Wagner is located outside of the room and nowhere in Wagner is it taught or suggested that it is inside of the room. In fact this would clearly defeat the purpose of Wagner of notifying people outside of the room that they do not wish to be disturbed or that room needs to be maid. In claim 37 the interface assembly is configured to convey a minibar access condition to outside of the room (for which the Examiner has cited switching assembly 12 of Wagner) and the indicating assembly including a first switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display for displaying outside of the room said minibar access condition (for which the Examiner has cited indicating assembly 30 of Wagner). Indicating assembly 30 of Wagner does not include a switch that is (1) operable from outside of the room for (2) enabling the display. Switch 10, 12 of Wagner is not the indicating assembly. Wagner provides no motivation to add a switch to the indicating assembly outside of the room in addition to the interface

assembly inside of the room. The recited switch has not been addressed by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 37. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch actuated from outside of the room to enable a display. Further, Gatti also does not provide any teaching or suggesting of a switch to enable a display at the indicating assembly.

For at least these reasons, claim 37 patentably defines over Wagner in view of Gatti.

Claim 38 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 38 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 38 recites “said indicating assembly includes at least one of (1) said display of said indicating assembly comprising a discrete display and (2) said first switch comprising a discrete switch”. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch that is discrete (or otherwise). Further, Gatti also does not provide any teaching or suggesting of the indicating assembly including a switch that is discrete (or otherwise). The Examiner in discussion of claim 38 has not addressed such. For at least these reasons, claim 38 patentably defines over Wagner in view of Gatti.

Claims 39 - 51 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 52 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 52 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 73 recites “said first switch comprises a magnetic switch, said magnetic switch actuated with a magnet”. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of the indicating assembly including a switch, magnetic or otherwise. Switch 12 of switching assembly 10 of Wagner, cited by the Examiner, is not located at the indicating assembly 30 (outside of the room) but at the switching assembly 10 (inside of the room). Secondly, switch 12 is not magnetic, as required by claim 52. Indicating assembly 30 of Wagner does not include a switch for enabling the display and switching assembly 10 does not include a display for displaying outside of the room the occupancy condition. Further, Gatti also does not provide any teaching or suggesting of the indicating assembly including a switch that is magnetic (or otherwise). For at least these reasons, claim 52 patentably defines over Wagner in view of Gatti.

Claims 53 - 54 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 55 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 55 also clearly defines over Wagner. Claim 55 recites “said communication includes an infra-red communication device in said interface assembly and said centrally controlled system for communication of signals therebetween”. Wagner is simply devoid of any teaching or suggestion of using an infra-red device for communication. The motion sensor mentioned in Wagner has nothing whatsoever to do

with communication between an interface assembly and a central control system, as suggested by the Examiner. Further, Wagner does not disclose or suggest an infra-red device included with an interface assembly and an infra-red device included with a centrally controlled system. Further, Gatti also does not provide any teaching or suggesting of an infra-red device included with an interface assembly and an infra-red device included with a centrally controlled system. For at least these reasons, claim 55 patentably defines over Wagner in view of Gatti.

Claim 56 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claims 37 – 56 patentably define over Wagner in view of Gatti. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication that claims 19 – 27 contained allowable subject matter is recognized and appreciated.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that claims 19, 20, 22 – 27, 31, 34, 35, and 37 – 102 are allowable. Accordingly,

reconsideration and allowance is requested. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the allowance of this application.

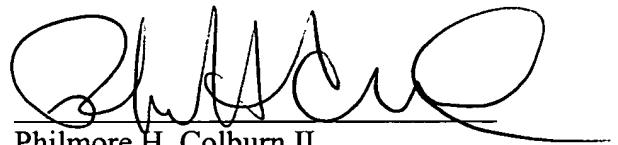
If there are any charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCKINGHAM ET AL.

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